

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Action dated June 18, 2004.

The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-8 were pending in the application. In the Final Action, claims 1-8 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 1-8 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arimura et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,349,479) in view of Yao et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,802,243), Ikushima et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,311,375) and further in view of Oguro (U.S. Patent No.: 5,907,656).

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arimura in view of Yao, Ikushima, Oguro and further in view of Beavers et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,307,701).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1 and 6) are patentable over Arimura, Yao, Ikushima, Oguro and Beavers.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a video tape recording/reproducing device and a video tape reproducing device. Each of the claims recites that "the video tape is housed within a cassette that includes a non-contact type buffer memory for storing a list of contents of the video tape, the non-contact type buffer memory including a drive circuit for controlling said memory, being read when data is reproduced from the tape and being written when data is recorded to the tape." (emphasis supplied) Supporting disclosure for the tape contents memory aspect of Applicant's invention can be found in the specification at, for example, page 18, line 13 to page 19, line 13.

Neither Arimura, Yao, Ikushima, Oguro nor Beavers discloses a video tape cassette that includes a non-contact type buffer memory for storing a list of contents of the video tape, wherein the non-contact type buffer memory includes a drive circuit for controlling the memory. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Arimura, Yao, Ikushima, Oguro and Beavers - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Claims 2-5 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 2-5 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 7 and 8 depend on claim 6. Since claim 6 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 7 and 8 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 6.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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